

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Steinhatchee Area

Clay Creek Loop Information Sheet

Description: Launch at the Dallus Creek ramp and slither through the pristine salt marsh to Clay Creek, a meandering, narrow channel only accessible at high tide. Join the Gulf coastline for a brief stretch and visit the Dallus Creek Campsite, part of the Big Bend Salt-water Paddling Trail. Bring binoculars and enjoy birding and wildlife viewing on this remote and pristine waterway. Return to Dallus Creek Landing.

Skill Level: Intermediate.

Distance/Time: 5.8 Miles/ 2.5 - 3 Hours

Launch Site: Dallas Creek Landing - Take CR 400 (Beach Road) north out of Steinhatchee, go about 5.6 Miles after turning north from the river to the Dallus Creek Landing sign on your left. Turn left on Dallus Creek Rd. Continue on Dallus Creek Rd 3.1 miles to the boat ramp.

Special Considerations: Paddle on mid to high tide only. Coastline can become extremely shallow, out to 1/2 mile, on low winter tides.

Skill Level Definitions

Beginner: New to paddling and may need tips and or instructions about paddling strokes, safety procedures, and entering/exiting kayaks. Comfortable on short trips of 1 to 3 miles on protected waters, when wind does not exceed 5 mph.

Novice: Paddlers acquainted with basic paddle strokes and can manage kayak handling independently in winds not exceeding 10 mph on protected waters. Comfortable on trips up to 6 miles.

Intermediate: Paddlers with experience in basic strokes and some experience on different venues, including some open water. Comfortable on trip distances of 6 to 10 miles, winds not exceeding 15 mph.

Advanced: Seasoned paddlers who possess skills and experience to paddle all venues and conditions. Experienced in self-rescues. Should be comfortable paddling more than 10 miles in a day.

NOTE: Great care has been taken to ensure this guides accuracy, but weather, tides, and water conditions can change rapidly and create hazardous conditions. These maps are for visual reference only, please consult NOAA Charts for navigation. Paddlers should have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All paddlers should always wear PFDs while on the water, and leave a float plan. There are inherent dangers in any paddle sport. There are special hazards along the Florida coast due to shifting tides, changing wind and weather, shallow waters, and treacherous bottoms with soft mud, rocks, and oyster bars. It is up to each paddler to be aware of these dangers, to accept and be prepared for the risks involved, and to be certain they have the skills to safely paddle in these conditions.